APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/682,122	07/25/2001	Takayuki Sato	VN-0140US	1135

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EXAMINER
WINDER, PATRICE L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2155	

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/682,122	SATO, TAKAYUKI
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Patrice Winder	2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _25 July 2001_.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-21_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-21_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _5.8_.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1.   Applicant is advised of possible benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), wherein an

application for patent filed in the United States may be entitled to the benefit of the filing

date of a prior application filed in a foreign country.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3.   Claims 1-12, 14-17, 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over White Paper: Virtual LAN Communication (hereafter referred to as

Cisco) in view of Mauch, USPN 4,721,954 (hereafter referred to as Mauch).

4.   Regarding claim 1, Cisco taught a secure entry system for a building having a

plurality of units provided therein (page 13), said system comprising:

an administration server, which is provided in said building, operable to

administrate a computer network system (network manager = administration server,

page 14); and

at least one interconnecting device operable to connect said administration

server and respective network devices in said plurality of units (router = interconnecting

device, catalyst 5000 = network devices, floors = plurality of units), wherein said

administration server sets said interconnecting device to assign a plurality of VLANs to each of said units (assigned through respective network devices), respectively, in such a manner that a VLAN assigned to one of said units is different from VLANs assigned to respective others of said units to provide secure entry to said units and said computer network system in the building (pages 2, 14).

Cisco does not specifically teach each of the units permitting only entry of designated person thereto. However, Mauch taught each of the units permitting only entry of designated person thereto (column 3, line 59 – column 4, line 33). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that incorporating Mauch's restricting access to the plurality of units in Cisco's virtual LAN management system would have enhanced system security. The motivation would have been to incorporate a specific mechanism to restrict user access..

5.   Regarding dependent claim 2, Mauch taught further comprising a user certifying unit operable to obtain identifying information of a person trying to enter one of said units in the building from said person to certify whether or not said person is a designated person based on said identifying information and to permit only said designated person to enter said one of said one of said units in the building (column 4, lines 3-10).

6.   Regarding dependent claim 3, Cisco taught said administration server administrates an entry of a user of each of said units to said units and an entry of one of said respective network devices by said user to said computer network system (page 13).

7.   Regarding dependent claim 4, Mauch taught an administration server assigns

closed-space identifying information to each of said plurality of units, said closed-space

identifying information being information being information for identifying a

corresponding one of said plurality of units, and

each of said plurality of units permits said user having said closed-space identifying

information assigned to said each of said units to enter said corresponding one of said

plurality of units (column 3, line 59 – column 4, line23).

8.   Regarding dependent claim 5, Cisco taught said administration server assigns

VLAN identifying information to each of said VLANs respectively assigned to said

plurality of units, said VLAN identifying information being information for identifying

corresponding one of said VLANs, and

said administration server permits one of said network devices that sent said VLAN

identifying information assigned to one of said VLANs identified by said sent VLAN

identifying information, to enter said computer network system (page 3).

9.   Regarding dependent claim 6, Mauch taught said administration server stores a

history of the entry of said user of each of said units to said each of said units and a

history of the entry of said one of said network devices by said user to said computer

network system (column 4, line 34 – column 5, line 22).

10.   Regarding dependent claim 7, Cisco taught said administration server assigns

said plurality of VLANs to said units, respectively, to be different from a further VLAN

assigned to said administration server (Configuring VLANs, page 4).

11.   Regarding dependent claim 8, Cisco taught said administration server assigns said further VLAN, which is assigned to said administration server, to said interconnecting device (page 4).

12.   Regarding dependent claim 9, Cisco taught teach said administration server obtains at least one of a communication amount and a communication time period for each connection port of said interconnecting device, and controls communication at said each connection port of said interconnecting device based on said at least one of said communication amount and said communication time period (page 8).

13.   Regarding dependent claim 10, Cisco taught further comprising an entrance server operable to administrate an entry of each of said network devices in said plurality of units to said computer network system (page 5).

14.   Regarding dependent claim 11, Cisco taught said entrance server has an entrance database operable to store device identifying information for identifying each of said network devices, and permits a corresponding one of said network devices that has said device identifying information stored in said entrance data to enter said computer network system (page 5).

15.   Regarding dependent claim 12, Cisco taught said entrance database stores a MAC address of said each of said network devices as said device identifying information, and said entrance server permits said one of said network devices that has said MAC address stored in said entrance database to enter said computer network system (page 5).

16. Regarding dependent claim 14, Cisco taught said entrance server has an entrance database operable to store user identifying information for identifying a corresponding user of said each of said network devices, and permits a corresponding one of said network devices that sent said user identifying information stored in said entrance database to enter said computer network system (page 13).

17. Regarding dependent claim 15, Cisco taught said administration server assigns, to said entrance server, a VLAN that allows said entrance server to communicate with said plurality of VLANs respectively assigned to said plurality of units (page 2).

18. Regarding dependent claim 16, Cisco taught further comprising a shared server operable to give a plurality of network devices common information that is common thereto, each of said plurality of units having therein at least one of said plurality of network devices (page 3).

19. Regarding dependent claim 17, Cisco taught said administration server assigns, to said shared server, a VLAN that allows said shared server to communicate with said plurality of VLANs respectively assigned to said plurality of units (page 3).

20. Regarding dependent claim 20, Mauch taught each of said units includes an abnormal-state detecting unit operable to detect an abnormal state in a corresponding one of said each of said units and to notify said administration server of a detection thereof (column 6, lines 5-31), said abnormal-state detecting unit being connected to a connection port of said interconnection device other than connection port to which one of said network devices is connected (column 6, lines 21-31).

21.   The language of claim 21 is substantially the same as previously rejected claim
1. Therefore, claim 21 is rejected on the same rationale as claim 1.

22.   Claims 13 and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable
over Cisco and Mauch as applied to claims 1 and 12 above, and further in view of
McNeill et al., USPN 6,167,052 (hereafter referred to as McNeill).

23.   Regarding dependent claim 13, Cisco does not specifically teach a DHCP server.
However, McNeill taught a DHCP server operable to assign, in a case where it is
determined that said MAC address of said one of said network devices is stored in said
entrance database, an IP address to said one of said network devices (column 6, line
60 – column 7, line 20). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at
the time the invention was made that incorporating McNeill's assigning resources in
Cisco's system for configuring virtual LANs would have improved system effectiveness.
The motivation would have been to better administrate the resources within the
computer network.

24.   Regarding dependent claim 18, Cisco does not specifically teach a DHCP server.
However, McNeill taught a DHCP server operable to assign an IP address to each of
said respective network devices in said plurality of units (column 6, line 60 – column 7,
line 20). For motivation see claim 13, above.

25.   Regarding dependent claim 19, McNeill taught said administration server
assigns, to said DHCP server, a VLAN that allows said DHCP server to communicate
with said plurality of VLANs respectively assigned to said plurality of units (column 6,
line 60 - column 7, line 20).

Conclusion

26.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to
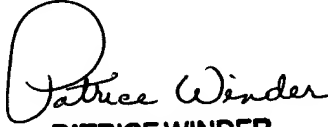
applicant's disclosure.

    a.   Author unknown: Virtual LANs: Flexible network segmentation for high-

    speed LANs: taught virtual LANs offer a highly flexible means for segmenting a

    corporate network;

    b.   Ekstrom et al., USPN 5,968,126: taught user-based binding of network

    stations to broadcast domains;

    c.   Nessett et al., USPN 5,968,176: taught a system for establishing security

    in a network that includes nodes having security functions in multiple protocol

    layers;

    d.   Jain et al., USPN 6,047,325: taught network device for supporting

    construction of virtual local area networks on arbitrary local and wide area

    computer networks; and

    e.   Brunius, USPN 6,204,760 B1: taught security system for a building

    complex having multiple units.

27.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Patrice Winder whose telephone number is (703) 305-

3938. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 10:30 AM to 7:00

PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Hosain Alam, can be reached on (703) 308-6662. The fax phone number(s)

for this Group is official (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or

proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is

(703) 305-3900.

PATRICE WINDER
PRIMARY EXAMINER